

# Cold weather danger for boaters

The carbon monoxide poisoning of 10 boaters this summer has prompted the OPP to issue a warning about the dangers of the improper use of alcohol and propane stoves for heating purposes.

Due to the unseasonably cold summer, some boaters have utilized fuel-burning cooking stoves as heaters. In unventilated areas below decks, these stoves burn up available oxygen and replace it with deadly carbon monoxide.

Poisoning by this colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas causes death or severe brain damage, long term memory loss, psychiatric disorders and Parkinson disease-like symptoms. The severity of the poisoning depends upon the concentration of the gas and the length of exposure.

The 10 people affected this year were poisoned in three separate incidents.

Dr. Helge Koch, the director of the Hyperbaric Unit at Toronto General Hospital, where all 10 victims were brought for treatment, said that last summer not a single person was treated for carbon monoxide poisoning as the result of improper use of a stove on board a boat.

One chilly night in June, a Sudbury family of five were trying to sleep on board a 25-foot cabin cruiser anchored in Georgian Bay's North Channel. The parents of three girls, aged 7, 10, and 13, turned on an alcohol stove to warm the sleeping quarters. While the parents slept in the ventilated rear of the boat, their daughters were slowly succumbing to carbon monoxide poisoning below decks.

In the morning the parents discovered their children unconscious and unable to be aroused. A frantic "mayday" call on marine band radio alerted other boaters, the Coast Guard in Wiarton, and the OPP in Little Current to the crisis. The OPP cruiser W.H. Clarke was dispatched and took the family to land where they were rushed by ambulance to hospital.

Fresh air revived the children, however, upon the completion of hospital tests doctors had the youngsters flown by air ambulance

to Toronto and placed in the hyperbaric unit. The chamber forces oxygen into the body while driving out carbon monoxide.

All recovered by investigator Prov. Const. Al Boyd of little Current detachment said doctors who treated the children speculated if they had been exposed longer, they would have died.

In a second incident, a mother and her two children on board a sailboat went to sleep after starting a cook stove. The mother awoke with a searing headache and started to vomit. Upon waking her children, they too had similar symptoms.

Four hours later, doctors found the two children, a four year-old boy and his eight year-old sister,

still had dangerously high levels of carbon monoxide in their systems and they too, were treated at the hyperbaric unit. Again, prompt medical attention and limited exposure were the deciding factors.

"This holiday weekend marks the transition from summer to the beginning of fall and even cooler night time temperatures. If you

are a boater, remember do not use fuel-burning cooking devices for heating purposes. Even brief exposure can cause drowsiness and a lessening of the ability to perceive danger and respond to it," said S/Sgt. Larry Smith, marine coordinator, traffic and marine branch.

Enjoy the rest of the boating season safely.

## Pet Talk

By Alice Scott

It's the time of year to get those puppies, and even the older dogs, out to obedience classes.

This is the ideal way to socialize your puppy and have a well-trained companion in your home.

This September I will be offering a basic course and an advanced class.

The basic course is for puppies or the older dog that needs extra training.

The advanced course is for dogs who have attended classes before and the owners would like to pursue more challenging exercises.

Obedience training can be fun and easy if you train your pet with love and patience.

Anyone interested contact me before September 5th at 824-2052.

All hunting dogs should have their food intake increased during hunting season. Even increasing food a month before will help your dog build a small extra layer of fat and coat.

Hunting dogs are sometimes out working three to five hours in damp weather and retrieve through mud, bushes and water.

These activities take an extreme amount of energy and must be prepared for carefully.

Supplying a half cup of cottage cheese or low-fat plain yogurt, three to five times a week will also help to add the extra protein they will need.

When you purchase a pup for hunting, you should have the dew claws remove by your vet if the breeder has not already done so.

The dew claws can catch on bushes or trees when the dogs are on a retrieve or flushing birds, causing great discomfort to your dog.

Always carry a few sugar cubes or a small package of honey since many hunting dogs can suffer from exhaustion or hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).

Mutual trust and understanding are required of the hunter and dog before a satisfactory retrieving companion is developed.

If your hunting dog is raised as a house pet with the love and understanding of the person who is to take him hunting, he will require the minimum amount of training in order to accomplish the job.

Remember also to have a brightly coloured vest or scarf on your dog. Many dogs have been shot during hunting season. Protect your dog as you would any hunting companion. Have a safe and prosperous hunt.





*Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell  
are pleased to announce*

*the up-coming wedding  
of their daughter  
Catherine Mary  
to  
Patrick Moher.*

*The wedding will take place  
Saturday November 3rd  
at 2:00 p.m.*

*At Holy Angels Church  
Schreiber, Ontario*

We're looking for

ONTARIO  
JUNIOR CITIZENS

Do you know one?

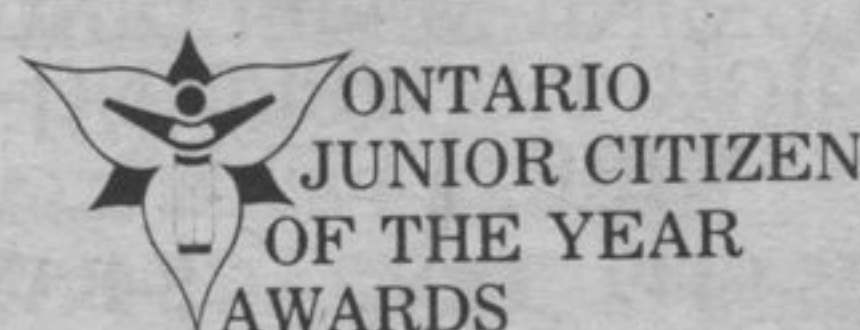
Do you know a young person, aged 6 to 18 years, who is involved in worthwhile community service or a special person who is contributing, while coping with a physical or psychological limitation? Do you know a youth who has performed an act of heroism?

The Ontario Community Newspapers Association with Canadian Airlines International as the patron, are looking to recognize these "good kids", the young people of our province who show a commitment to making life better for others.

To nominate an individual or a group of young people, for the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Award, please contact this newspaper or the O.C.N.A. at (416) 844-0184. Nominations, for this year's awards, will be accepted until October 31, 1990.

Every nominee will receive a certificate and up to 12 individuals and one group will be the recipients of a plaque presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, an Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year lapel pin, \$200.00 and a family portrait with the Lieutenant Governor.

NOMINATION FORMS - are available by contacting this Community Newspaper or O.C.N.A. (416) 844-0184.



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Schreiber Recreation Centre

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